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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM

REPORT

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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE OF INFORMATION 1948

SUBJECT Political; Sociological

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DISTRIBUTED March 1949

WHERE PUBLISHED Istanbul

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 25 January 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Turkish

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SOURCE Cumhuriyet. (Information requested.)THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT BULGARIA

[Summary of a series of five articles by Stefan Mincev Sarbakov, a Bulgarian newspaper man who fled to Turkey]

The Red Georgi Dimitrov Government that came into power 9 April 1944 with the aid of Soviet armed forces declared that Bulgaria was a democratic nation supported by a constitution. But this declaration remained as empty words on paper. This is the truth:

Two months after the establishment and proclamation of the constitution, general elections were to be held and members for the new parliament were to be chosen. Two whole years passed, the cabinet was changed twice, and yet no elections were held and no parliament had been established. The Communists did not keep their promises of abiding by democratic principles; moreover, by adopting a set of laws which suited their wishes and plans, they began governing the nation without a parliament.

Although elections were later held as the result of unanimous insistence, everyone knows under what conditions and claims the elections were held.

Yet 4 years after the Communists had taken over the government, city government elections had not been held. The Communists brought in their own men and appointed them to city government administrative positions. The Communists took the property and even the lives of the citizens in their own hands. Controlling the municipalities as their own property, they did not feel the obligation of accounting for their actions to anybody.

There are about 10-50 Communists in each village; they include youths, children, and gypsies.

Land and home owners are rigid opponents of Communism. The Jews are also opposed to Communism.

If free elections had been held in Bulgaria, it is doubtful whether the Communists would have received even 10 percent of the votes.

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The Bulgarian people have been divided into five categories, and everything depends upon permits, of which there are three types: (1) permit; (2) card; (3) OF (Otechestven Front, Fatherland Front) permit (with identification photo). In this way, the people are dependent upon the Communists. The three cards are used, as follows: (1) with the permit the following may be purchased: bread, oil [or butter], soap, cheese, rice, sugar, and other similar materials; (2) with the card the following may be purchased: shoes, clothes, linen, shirts, and other similar items; and (3) the OF permit allows such articles as electric light bulbs, pipe materials, lumber, wood, coal, nails, and the like.

The OF permit also acts as a letter of recommendation. Without this permit, an official cannot carry out his duties, a laborer cannot work, and a student cannot go to school. If one does not obey the Communists' wishes, he does not receive any of the permits or ration cards.

The permits are issued to the people according to classes. Persons in Class 1 receive one kilo of bread daily; Class 2, 800 grams of bread daily; Class 3, 600 grams daily; Class 4, 400 grams daily; people in Class 5 receive no permits or cards. Those receiving no bread at all could not buy bread from bakeries or from anywhere else.

Daily wages are paid according to the categories to which they belong. Daily wages for a laborer are 130-310 leva; superiors and specialists, 320-350 leva; laborers in the middle class receive 250 leva daily. A laborer cannot meet the lowest daily needs with such wages. For example, an ordinary restaurant meal costs 50 leva and because of the lack of meat the portions are very small. If a laborer wishes to satisfy his hunger, he must have at least two meals at one sitting. Sunflower oil is used in place of lard for cooking; therefore, a laborer must spend at least 100 leva to satisfy his hunger. And spending another 100 leva for an evening meal, only 50 leva remain, which is usually spent for tobacco. If a laborer does not smoke, then the remaining 50 leva is used to buy breakfast.

It is natural then that necessary things as hats, shoes, rent, electricity, coal, and other materials cannot even be considered with the daily wages. Children cannot have the necessary proper care. The laborer sacrifices his wages either for these necessities or for food, spends his previously accumulated savings, or else sells some of his furniture.

Quarrels and fights among early morning marketers are frequent in Sofia. Men, women, and children form long lines so that they may be able to buy a few kilos of tomatoes, green peppers, cabbage, and leeks. Births even take place in these lines. Potatoes are scarce. Beans are considered a luxury. These vegetables are distributed by rations. There is a monthly ration of cauliflower oil which is not sufficient for the cooking of two meals. The Bulgarian people have long forgotten things like rice, sugar, cheese, lard, milk, kosher foods, and sausages. Only the Russians, Georgi Dimitrov, and his servants have the advantage of such foods.

Thirty thousand people have been driven from Sofia to the interior of Bulgaria. More than 60,000 have been put to death without trial. The chief inspector of this terrorist inquisition in Bulgaria is the Jew Zeyev. The cruelties of this man even surpass those of the bloodthirsty chief of the Soviet OGPU, Dzerzhinskiy.

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